

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & MALTA

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$2,156,522, including \$55,293 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Malta.

In addition to the United States' longstanding support for the IAEA's activities to promote peaceful nuclear applications, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the United States announced a \$100 million USD effort to expand this support over the next five years. The United States has pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development.



*Nuclear power plant under construction.
Credit: IAEA*

The United States views its support for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to which all NPT Parties are entitled, as a critical part of its broader effort to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. The U.S. has already designated over \$22 million for IAEA projects benefitting over 120 countries for which funding was previously unavailable. The United States is working with partners to reach the \$100 million goal, and welcomes commitments of over \$12 million from Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Due to the continued increase in fossil fuel prices, concerns about secure supply and an increasing awareness of the importance of greenhouse gas reductions, several countries are considering expanding their nuclear power programs or introducing nuclear energy for the first time. This requires careful planning, preparation and investment in a sustainable infrastructure to provide the legal, regulatory, technological, and human resources necessary.

Malta is therefore participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to strengthen national and regional infrastructures for the planning and development of nuclear power programs. The project will ensure that any Member State planning the introduction or expansion of nuclear energy has a complete understanding of the range of issues and activities to be addressed before implementation of a nuclear power project.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Radioactive sources are widely employed for beneficial purposes throughout the world, in areas including industry, medicine, and agriculture. However, accidents have raised awareness of the safety and security risks created by sources that are outside effective control. For many years the IAEA has been helping Member States strengthen national management and regulatory infrastructures to ensure that radioactive sources are appropriately regulated at all times.

Malta is currently participating in an interregional TC project sponsored by the United States to strengthen cradle-to-grave control of radioactive sources in the Mediterranean region. Malta is also participating in several regional TC projects through which Member States will improve their comprehensive regulatory infrastructure for the safety and control of radiation sources, establish and develop adequate and effective regulatory mechanisms, and harmonize and streamline national capabilities for regulatory control in full compliance with the IAEA Safety Standards and international requirements.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To support manpower development, the IAEA awards individual fellowships and organizes group training courses. In 2001, the United States hosted a training course in the field of insect pest control that Malta participated in. Additionally, since 2000, one U.S. expert has traveled to Malta to collaborate through an IAEA Technical Cooperation project on the topic of national nuclear legislation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20520 | www.state.gov